

## The Times' Daily Short Story.

An Order  
For Diamonds

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The house of Sloane, Saunders & Co., London, had received a letter from Sir James Blankton, living about a mile out of the village of Morpeth, asking them to send down a man with diamonds for marriage presents. It was added that his carriage would meet the man at the station at 6 o'clock in the evening. I was the one selected to go, and I reached Morpeth on time with £5,000 worth of diamonds concealed about my person.

A carriage awaited me, but I had hardly taken a seat in it when I had queer feelings. The outfit was too common to be owned and publicly used by such a man as Sir James Blankton, and the two men on the box didn't appear at all like servants. I made bold to say:

"See here, men, I think there is a mistake. I think I have got Sir James Blankton mixed up with Sir James Dushon. It is the latter who owns a large interest in a Manchester cotton factory, isn't it?"

"It may be, but I dunno," replied the man who was driving as he pulled up his horses.

"Well, you see, I wanted to show him some of these new dyes for cottons."

"Is that your line, sir?"

"Yes, I have ten new colors just out. I am sorry for the blunder, but I am willing."

"Then what the bloody blazes did you get into this tussle for?"

"To see Sir James Blankton, of course. I got it in my head."

"Oh, blow your head and your heels too! Jim, turn about and drive the bloomin' ass back to town!"

"I'll be shot if I do!" replied Jim. "He can get right out 'ere and take 'isself back on his own legs and be blowed to him!"

When I had walked the two miles and reached town, I went to a hotel. Inside of five minutes I had learned that Sir James Blankton lived in the opposite direction to that I had taken. Further, that the gentleman and his wife had been in Scotland for several weeks. It did not take me long to figure it out to my perfect satisfaction. It was a put up job to rob the London house through me, and it had been put up with the aid of some one at Sir James Blankton's house.

I started for London by the 9 o'clock train. The night had come on dark and stormy, and there were but few passengers from Morpeth. There were two plain women ticketed to Durham and a man about forty years old of pleasing address and genteel appearance. The four of us were ushered into the same compartment. As soon as we fell into conversation the man gave me to understand that he lived at Beverly, a town about fifty miles

down the line, and from certain words let fall I gathered that he was a prominent public official of the place. I didn't exactly reply that I was in the dye line, but he probably inferred as much from what I said. I was glad of his company. He was well posted, a fair talker.

The women got out at Durham and left us alone. We passed Darlington and were still the sole occupants of the compartment. Mr. Arnold, as he had given his name, had been sitting opposite me for an hour. As the train cleared Darlington, however, he rose up and yawned and said:

"I am sleepy, and yet I can never get a wink of sleep on the train. By the way, I found a curious coin on the street at Morpeth today. Can you make anything of it?"

He had a coin in his fingers as he stepped over to me. I reached out a hand to receive it when he seized me by the throat with both hands and had me on my back in a second. I was no match for him in strength. He gripped my throat so suddenly and so fiercely that I was deprived of all powers of resistance. Bending over me, with his knee on my chest, he finally let up on his clutch and said:

"Don't be foolish now! I know you and am after those diamonds."

He drew a wicked looking knife and held it in his teeth, while he used some sort of cord to tie my hands behind my back. Why didn't I resist? Simply because his clutch on my throat had almost paralyzed me. When he had taken the key of my Gladstone from one of my pockets he turned me over and said:

"Now for the sparklers. I know you shifted them to the bag when you were at the hotel. A deuced fine layout, and the cash value must be close to £10,000. It's a pretty haul indeed, and no risk attending it."

He placed the jewel case in his pocket, lit a cigar and pleasantly continued:

"Take it easy, my boy. The next stop is North Allerton, and I shall gag you and leave the train there. You'll be discovered at Leeds or sooner."

I was so mad and my throat hurt me so much that I made no attempt to reply. After a couple of minutes the train slackened speed, and in sixty seconds more it had come to a standstill.

"Special stop, is it?" growled the robber as he took a gag from his pocket and bent over me. "Well, here goes to keep you quiet while I get away."

Just then the guard opened the door to admit two passengers, and I began to yell at the top of my voice. The robber made a bolt for it, and he would have got off temporarily at least but for an accident. He caught his foot and fell heavily on the platform, and before he could rise the guards had him secure. The job had been put up between him and the two men who drove me, assisted by a maid in Sir James Blankton's house, and I had the satisfaction of seeing the quartet sent to prison for long terms. M. QUAD.

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## IN BOSTON MARKETS.

Quotations on the Leading Products That Are in Demand.

Boston, April 13.—Butter holds steady. Vermont and New Hampshire extra creamery, 22c; northern New York, 22c; western, 22c; northern firsts, 19c; eastern, best marks, 20c; western firsts, 16c; storage extra, 16c; Vermont dairy firsts, 17c; western imitation creamery extra, 18c; firsts, 15c; ladle firsts, 14c; packing stock, 12c; renovated, 12c; boxes extra northern creamery, 22c; firsts, 21c; extra dairy, 21c; firsts, 17c; fair to good, 14c; prints, 14c; 22c.

Cheese—New York and Vermont twin extra, 10c; firsts, 9c; late made, 8c; sage, 10c.

Eggs—Native fancy, 20c; Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire firsts, 18c; York state firsts, 18c; western extras, 18c; firsts, 17c; Kentucky and southern, 17c; 17c.

Beans—Choice hand-picked pea, 2c; screened, \$1.80; 1.90; second, \$1.70; 1.80; choice hand-picked medium, \$1.95; 2.00; screened, \$1.80; 1.90; small white California, \$2.25; foreign pea, \$1.80; 1.90; medium, \$1.80; 1.90; choice hand-picked yellow eyes, \$2.70; 2.80; common to good, \$2.25; 2.65; red kidneys, \$3.00; 2.50.

Prices on apples stiffened considerably the past week, because much of the stock which had been held back for high prices was found to be passe, greatly diminishing the stock of really fine fruit, and throwing on the market a considerable stock of inferior fruit. The range of prices widened in consequence. Northern spies sold as high as \$6 in small lots, and the outside price is firm at \$5, which is \$1.50 higher than a week ago.

Potatoes are about 15c a bushel higher. Spinach is also quoted higher. String beans are lower, and the inside price for asparagus is lower, although best stock still commands \$6 a case. Rhubarb has eased off 2 cents a pound to 6 cents. Winter squash has just doubled in price, and is now quoted at \$60 a ton, as compared with \$30 last week.

Prices follow:  
Apples—Greenings, \$2.50 per bbl; Tolman sweets, \$1.50; 2.75; fancy Baldwin, \$2.25; 2.30; No. 1, No. 2, \$1.25; 1.50; spy, \$3.00; 3.50; ordinary cooking stock, \$1.25; 1.75.

Cranberries—\$1.15 per bx; \$5.00; 7.50 per bbl.

Strawberries—20c; 25c per qt.  
Potatoes—Hebrons, \$1.15; 1.20 per bu; Green mountains, \$1.20; 1.25; Dakota reds, \$1.05; 1.10; sweets, \$1.75 per bbl.

Onions—Native, \$3.50 per bbl; \$1.00; 1.30 per bu; leeks, \$1.50 per bu.

Turnips—Yellow, \$1.25 per bbl; white, \$2.00; 2.50 per bu.

Spinach, etc.—Spinach, \$2 per bbl; cabbage, old, \$3 per bbl; new, \$4 per crt; beet greens, 50c per bu; dandelions, \$1.00; 1.25 per bu; parsley, 75c per bu.

Lettuce—Hothouse, 50c; \$1 per doz heads; hothouse watercress, 75c; mint, 75c per doz.

Tomatoes—Hothouse, 40c per pound; Florida, \$1.75; 2.25 per crt.

Eggplant—\$3.00 per crt.

Miscellaneous—Cucumbers, \$3.00 per bx; string beans, \$2.50; 3.00 per crt; radishes, 40c per doz; peppers, \$2.50 per crt; turban squash, \$2.50 per bbl; Hubbard, \$60 per ton; Boston market celery, \$4 per doz; carrots, 75c; 81 per bu.

Philadelphia mushrooms, \$2 per 4-lb bbl; natives, \$1 per pound; beets, \$1.50; 1.75 per bu; potatoes bunch, beets, \$1.25 per doz; sprouts, 30c per qt; artichokes, \$2 per bx; asparagus, \$4.00 per doz; parsnips, 75c; \$1 per bu; rhubarb, 6c per pound.

Fresh meats—Choice beef, 7c; 7c; good, 6c; hindquarters, choice, 9 1/4; 10c; fair to good, 8c; choice forequarters, 5 1/4; 5c; fair to good, 4c; 5c; extra mutton, 6c; 8c; common to good, 6c; eastern yearlings, 5c; 6c; western, 6c; fall lambs, eastern choice, 9c; 9c; fair to good, 7c; 8c; western, 8c; 9c; spring lambs, choice, 25 to 30 lbs each, \$8; 10c; common to good, \$2.00; choice veals, 10c; fair to good, 7c; 8c; common, 5c; 6c; county dressed hogs, 6c; heavy, 6c.

Dressed poultry—Northern and eastern fresh-killed fowls, choice, 15c; common to good, 13c; 14c; chickens, choice roasting, 18c; 20c; small and medium, 12c; 15c; nearly broilers, 3 to 3 1/2 lbs to a pair, 25c; 28c; pigeons, \$1.00; 1.50; choice large squabs, \$2.50; 3.00; chickens, fancy, 21c; good to choice, 17c; common to good, 14c; 16c; chickens, choice broilers, 13c; 14c; common to good, 11c; 12c; fowls, choice large, 14c; common to good, 12c; 13c; old cocks, 11c; large capons, 19c; 20c; medium, 16c; 18c; small and slips, 14c; 15c.

Live poultry—Fowls, 14c; 15c; roosters, 8c.

Hay, etc.—Best, \$10.00; lower grade, \$15.00; 18c; straw, \$2.00; 2.50; cut straw, \$1.10; 1.2c; each spring bran to ship, \$2.10; winter, \$2.2c.

Elephant skin.

The skin of an elephant when tanned is very expensive, the tanning taking about six months. Articles made from elephant hides are costly luxuries.

## METHODS IN FINANCE

Illegal Transactions Exposed by  
Thomas W. Lawson.

## HOW THE DEALS ARE ENGINEERED

Boston Copper King Tells Why There Is "Never a Scratch of a Pen" Between Principals in Deals Which Net Millions to a Few in Very Short Periods of Time—Cites the Morgan-Gates Deal.

Thomas W. Lawson, the Boston copper king and financier, who recently said that it was impossible for a few men to make \$40,000,000 in one deal legally and that it was because of this fact that financiers undertook these deals without entering into written agreements, gave an illustration by telling the inside history of the famous Louisville and Nashville case in which J. Pierpont Morgan and John W. Gates were involved, says a Boston dispatch to the Philadelphia Press. Said Mr. Lawson:

"Mr. Perkins, of J. P. Morgan & Co., went to the Waldorf hotel and waked John Gates up at 3 o'clock in the morning. He demanded that Gates should sell to J. P. Morgan & Co. a block of Louisville and Nashville stock which he had just bought. This stock, if he did not sell it, would have brought about another crisis similar to the Northern Pacific corner.

"Gates agreed to sell it, provided they would give him \$10,000,000 more than it had cost him about one week before. This they were obliged to do, and they did.

"Now, if that transaction had been between the two men alone, Morgan on the one side simply going to pay a certain sum out of his pocket to Gates on the other side, a record could have been made and given to the public, and it would not have interfered with the carrying through of the transaction. But such was not the case.

"Gates was to get more than \$10,000,000 of profit overnight, and it was only because of what I call a 'trick of finance' that this was possible. The \$10,000,000 was not to come from Morgan's pocket, but from the public through the Louisville and Nashville railroad and its allied lines, which were, in one form or another, to be assessed for it.

"Therefore, if the transaction had been made public on the day following the night trade, those who were to have the \$10,000,000 taken from them could have gone to the courts, and the transaction could have been stopped.

"This brings us to the starting point. Can a man take from others overnight these enormous sums of money—legally?"

"I say, if he can, that the men who are involved in the transaction would no more think of risking their share of the profits by taking the word of their associates than the mechanic would take the seller's word when he buys his house for \$2,000.

"But if this profit comes illegally, then, of course, those who are to have it are compelled to make the transaction one such as I have described, 'without the scratch of a pen.'

"These transactions should not be confounded with such as we have daily on the Stock Exchange, where one member enters into a contract with another, in which large sums are involved, without writing. The latter are entirely different. There the parties have the guarantee which their code gives them—the rules, the 'system' of the Stock Exchange. In other words, their Stock Exchange is the equivalent of the people's courts of law, and the word of a member party to a contract is the equivalent of the 'writing' of the people in their courts of law.

"But the transactions to which we are referring are not intended by those who are parties to them to be subject to the laws of court or Stock Exchange, because—yes, because, and why not say it?—they are illegal transactions.

"That is, ninety-nine cases in a hundred where the enormous profits are left to the word of one or more of those taking part in them are outside of the law as it is on the statute books and as a civilized people understand it and have a right to understand it."

"Mr. Lawson," said the interviewer, "then you have been associated in transactions involving the illegal acquisition of huge sums of money."

"I cannot help your inference," he resumed. "Of course, boiled down, it means 'modern finance.' It means that this is the way financial business is done today, and that any man who is doing financial business on a large scale must find himself in the position I am in today, or else in what, to my mind, seems a much worse one—lying to the public."

Recurring to the specific instance in which the famous \$40,000,000 profit was made, Mr. Lawson said:

"It stands to reason that it is impossible for a set of men who are entering upon a transaction in which they are going to make \$40,000,000 profit in a very short time to put it on paper in the old fashioned way, to make an unalterable record of the transaction as it is.

"I mean that, as society and the law are constituted, it is an absolute impossibility for a few men to make \$40,000,000 profit legally. That's the very foundation of the question.

"Take the affairs I have mentioned. More than \$40,000,000 profit was made without putting a single dollar in jeopardy. It was made in a very, very short time and it represented between one and one-half and three times the

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Insomnia is a disease of the nerves which prevents natural sleep. The patient suffers intensely from lack of sleep, his whole system is affected, his strength is drained and serious results certainly follow.

Sleep is one of the miracles of life. Sleep is a wonderful cessation of brain activity and consciously directed mentally. The brain is unconscious and rests. When the nerves are disordered and will not let the brain sleep—that is insomnia.

My Aph-Ro-Dox cures sleeplessness because it cures the nerves. It is a wonderful nerve tonic and nerve food. It soothes

and rests disordered nerves. It makes possible sound, healthful, restful sleep—sleep that restores strength. When I introduced my Aph-Ro-Dox—the Old World remedy—I claimed that it would cure nervousness and insomnia. I have yet to learn of a single instance where it has not done so.

## Letters of Gratitude.

Every day I receive letters from people whose gratitude for cure lends them to write to me. They tell me that Aph-Ro-Dox has cured them of nervousness, of dyspepsia and catarrh. Others tell how it has restored their strength and waning vitality and made life worth living. And I, who have had long years of experience with the wonderful virtues of Aph-Ro-Dox, know that these things are true.

## Cured of Insomnia.

From the many letters received by every mail from grateful sufferers cured by Aph-Ro-Dox, I select the following:

Mr. John J. Madden of 344 Dorchester street, So. Boston, says:

"DR. M. CALMAN:

"Dear Sir—I am with great pleasure that I inform you that your Aph-Ro-Dox has cured me absolutely of insomnia and nervous dyspepsia. I have used Aph-Ro-Dox regularly according to directions, and I can safely say it is the first medicine I have taken that has ever had the wonderful effect upon me. All others have failed miserably."

(Signed) JOHN J. MADDEN. It is always so. Those who know Aph-Ro-Dox best are loudest in its praise.

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## TRANSIBERIAN RAILWAY.

Difficulties Involved in Building Russia's Line Around Lake Balkal.

The construction of the circum-balkal line of Russia's Transiberian railway may be compared in the matter of difficulty with the problems presented to the builders of the Colorado Midland railroad, says L. Lodian, C. E., in Harper's Weekly. The circum-balkal line winds in and out and through and over the spurs of the Altai range. From the Ural range to Ipktyek (Irkutsk), the capital in the heart of Siberia, a distance of 3,000 miles, there is not a single tunnel, but after leaving Ipktyek one enters almost at once a region of tunnels. Immediately after leaving Ipktyek the line runs into a mountain, and it will continue to tunnel the circum-balkal scenery for two years to come or until it pulls out on the level at the village of Micochina. My tour of the circum-balkal route convinced me that the borders of the lake should have been followed more closely, which would have made it possible to transport material both by water and land instead of entirely by land. There will be numerous tunnels on the line, some of them from three to four miles in length. The country through which the road traverses is very scantily inhabited, and all supplies have to be brought from a distance.

The laborers employed in the surface grading of the line endure many discomforts. The mosquitoes (compi to the Russians) are such a severe trial for six months of the year that the cart horses used for the removal of excavated material become unmanageable, and it is necessary to keep them from going constantly wherever the work is in progress. This mitigates the discomfort somewhat, but presents the alternative annoyance of inhaling the stifling smoke from the burning heaps.

## Japan's History.

Japan has a written history extending over 2,500 years.

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## WASHINGTON CHITCHAT

Gossip About Public Men at  
the National Capital.

## THE PRESIDENT'S DEAREST WISH

Why Roosevelt Wanted to Be Governor of the Philippines—A Slender Congressman's Experience on a Street Car—Comment on Senator Spooner's Clothes—How Commissioner Allen's Dignity Was Outraged.

President Roosevelt and Judge Alton B. Parker of Esopus, N. Y., are good friends. When the president was governor of New York he and the judge used to ride horseback together, says the Washington correspondent of the New York World.

One morning in May, 1900, they were out. At that time Colonel Roosevelt was much talked of as the candidate for vice president with McKinley. He was vehemently protesting to Parker that he did not want the place.

"Of course," said Parker, "you do not want the vice presidential nomination because you expect to be president some day."

"Oh, I am not so sure about that," Roosevelt replied. "But there is one thing I would like to have above all other in the gift of the people or the government."

"What is it?" asked Parker. "Commander in chief of a fighting army?"

"No," said Roosevelt, "if I could have my dearest wish I would be governor of the Philippines. That's the ideal place. Just think of the joy of it! You are absolutely your own master, with no politicians to be placated, no congress to consult and be hampered by—nothing to do but have your own way about everything."

Representative Fred Landis of Indiana is so lean and slender as to occasion playful comment by his colleagues, says the Washington Post. He was recently renominated, and consequently he is willing to endure any amount of

facetious comment about his shape.

Going down from the capitol in a street car recently a stout lady entered. The car was well crowded with statesmen homeward bound. A sudden jerk tossed the stout lady into the lap of the slender Indian.

"I beg your pardon, sir," said the lady in confusion as she staggered to her feet.

Mr. Landis arose to give her his seat, remarking with characteristic alertness: "I don't blame you, madam. I know you thought I was only painted on the seat."

"Who is that little senator with the tousled hair and the sarcastic smile, with his underlip stuck out?" recently asked a New York woman visitor in the senate gallery, says the Washington correspondent of the New York Times.

"That is Mr. Spooner of Wisconsin," said the Washington woman who was showing her around.

"I thought so," she commented. "His clothes show plainly that they couldn't have been made anywhere but in Wisconsin."

Back of them was sitting another woman, who overheard the conversation. She compressed her lips tightly, walked out of the gallery with a resolute air, proceeded to the marble room and summoned Mr. Spooner out of the senate.

"John," she said firmly, "I have just overheard a conversation which I am going to repeat to you, because it proves that I am right. You know I have always told you that you shouldn't have your clothes made in New York."

Speaker Cannon came breezily to the speaker's desk at noon the other day. He took out his watch and looked at the big clock on the wall opposite him.

"Well, I'll be darned!" he said, "that old clock is right again. Go ahead, Mr. Chaplain."

And the chaplain prayed for fifty-six seconds by both watch and clock.

## Snakes as Pets.

Snakes and serpents are treated by the Koreans with veneration and tenderness. No one ever kills a snake. The poorest and hungriest Korean will share his meals with the reptiles that crawl about his garden.

# Ayer's

## Sarsaparilla

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